

BACKGROUND TO THE ZANZIBAR BUREAU OF STANDARDS (ZBS)

For many years Zanzibar has been recognized as a commercial center in East and even further afield in Central Africa. Through decades of her history though many businesses were conducted within the islands, including industrial products, Zanzibar did not introduce an authority to deal with standards and standardization of goods and quality assurance.

In 1980s the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar introduced trade liberalization policies which provided opportunity for the private sector to engage in trade as well as manufacturing services. Since then, the manufacturing subsector has been fluctuating in terms of number of industries and factories as well as volume of production. Imports have been increasing over time with a slow rate of manufacturing for local consumption and export. This phenomenon has resulted in many substandard and counterfeit goods flooding the Zanzibar market.

This trend has not been conducive for manufacturing and trade competition in the country. This is one of the hindrances for economic growth in Zanzibar, as well as contributing to challenges in terms of safety and health problems. The counter actions are well addressed in both the *Zanzibar Development Vision (ZDV) 2020* and the *Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (MKUZA II)*. The *Zanzibar Trade Policy (2006)* also elaborated the need of standardization and quality assurance. The House of Representatives enacted the *Zanzibar Standard Act No.1 of 2011* to establish Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS). Towards the end of 2012, the ZBS was officially established, and now is in operation.



VISION STATEMENT

To be among the global leaders in providing highly respected standardization, quality assurance and metrology services.

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop and promote product standards, certification, quality management and conducting highly technical and professional testing of products using state-of-the-art laboratory equipment and devices that will promote and build confidence to manufacturers, traders and consumers, while strengthening Zanzibar's economy and community health and safety.

ROLE OF THE ZANZIBAR BUREAU OF STANDARDS

One of the key roles of the Bureau is ensuring that the products, whether produced in Zanzibar or imported to Zanzibar market, comply with the developed Zanzibar standards or other nationally recognized standards or international standards.

Hence ZBS has to develop, promote and enforce standards in order to ensure health and safety of the consumers as well as protecting the environment. In so doing ZBS builds confidence in manufacturers and traders for their goods and services in the markets. This in turn supports economic and social development of the country.

PROGRESS MADE WITHIN ZBS ONE YEAR LIFE

ZBS being new institution in Zanzibar started to build foundation through institutional framework where some regulations drafted to

support its law during operation; these include:

- *The Zanzibar Standard (Certification) Regulation, 2013*
- *The Zanzibar Standard (Compulsory Batch Certification of imports) Regulation, 2013*
- *The Zanzibar Standard (Tested Products) Regulations, 2013*

ZBS developed its five year Strategic Plan which will guide its operation. The Strategic Plan indicates the needs to put in place a building infrastructure for office and laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment. This includes capacity building for staff members so that they can perform their work based on modern techniques and professionalism. The Strategic Plan requires about TZS 19.5 billion in the coming five years to implement the planned targets and activities.

On the other hand, the Bureau has recruited 11 technical staff and acquires 9 supporting staff. During the financial year 2013/2014, the Bureau expects to recruit another batch of 15 technical staff.

ZBS is currently located at Amani Industrial Park, with plans to develop its permanent offices and laboratories in the Maruhubi area.

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